



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family  
Milford, Connecticut

January 2022



**Friday, January 1**  
**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**  
(No Vigil Mass)  
**Holy Day Masses**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Saint Ann Church**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Saint Gabriel Church**

How fitting to begin the new calendar year with a joyous celebration of Mary, the Mother of God! “The oldest Christian greeting of Mary was proclaimed when Mary’s relative Elizabeth called her ‘Mother of my Lord.’ When Elizabeth welcomed Mary, she recognized both the great privilege God had given Mary and Mary’s great faith in accepting it.

For centuries, Mary has been praised because she believed. She is Mother of God because of her faith in God. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary’s faith and trust in God alone.” (*Saints and Feast Days*)

**T4S**

**and this year’s Souper Bowl of Caring**

T4S (Teens for Service) and the Souper Bowl of Caring are another great parish tradition. The T4S team roster changes from year to year, as teens graduate, relocate, move on, but the spirit of service to others seems only to grow stronger. Once again, T4S will lead us in the annual youth-organized effort to alleviate poverty and hunger in our local community. Here’s the game plan:

**Saturday, January 29, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Saint Ann’s Parking Lot, 501 Naugatuck Avenue**

Contactless, drive-thru drop off of non-perishable food items and paper goods. Drive through, pop your trunk; masked teens, practicing safe distancing, will unload your cars and sort/pack donations. (Safe, convenient and very popular last year!)

**Saturday, and Sunday January 29 and 30**  
**After all Masses at Saint Ann’s and Saint Gabriel’s**

Contactless drop off of non-perishable food items and paper goods at tables set up outside each church’s entry doors. Teens, wearing masks and practicing safe distancing, will remove and sort the donations for delivery.

The primary recipients of our 2022 Souper Bowl of Caring will be the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry, Milford Food Bank, and Beth-El Center, including its Meals to Go Food Service. Please see this month’s weekly bulletins for most needed items and for details about cash/check donations. Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity!

## American Saints for January

In the first days of January the Church honors two American saints, one born in New York City, the other who came to our shores from Prachatitz in Bohemia. Both were known for their holiness and for their dedication to serving and educating the poor.

### Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Born in 1774 to an Episcopalian family, Elizabeth dreamed from an early age of helping the poor. After she married William Seton she founded a Protestant society for helping widows and orphans. After William’s death Elizabeth was drawn to the Catholic faith.

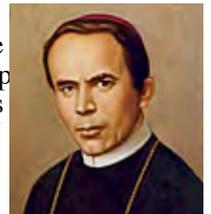


Struggling to provide for her five small children, she accepted an invitation from Sulpician priests to found a school in Baltimore. There she became “Mother Seton” to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph, the first congregation of women religious in the United States. Their mission to educate the poor and to teach in orphanages formed the beginning of the American parochial school system.

Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized in 1975 by Pope Paul VI. She is the first native-born saint of the United States. Her feast day is January 4.

### Saint John Neumann

In 1836 John Nepomucene Neumann arrived in New York where he was ordained and went to serve the immigrants in the vast region around Niagara Falls. He joined the Redemptorists and was made Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. During his 8 years as bishop, he gave himself totally to establishing schools and parishes for his mostly immigrant flock. He learned Gaelic to be able to hear the confessions of the Irish. Neumann died suddenly of a heart attack on a Philadelphia street. He was 48 years old.



In his canonization homily in 1977 Pope Paul VI said of John Neumann, “He was close to the sick; he was at home with the poor; he was a friend to sinners. And today he is the honor of all immigrants, and from the viewpoint of the Beatitudes the symbol of Christian success.”

John Neumann was the first American bishop to be canonized. He is the patron saint of sick children and of immigrants. His feast day is January 5.



John Gehring

### A Social Justice Meditation

*More than 50 years ago, the Second Vatican Council urged Catholics to read the 'signs of the times' and engage with the world. Pope Francis has called for a 'Church in the streets' and frequently recognizes the importance of grassroots organizers. Social justice is the public expression of loving our neighbor as ourselves. My faith is an activist faith because the radical call of the gospels compels us to speak out, organize, and challenge a status quo that leaves people beaten by the side of the road.*

John Gehring

Writer and editor John Gehring is the Catholic program director at *Faith in Public Life*, an ecumenical organization based in Washington, D.C. FPL is focused on influencing state and federal government policies relating to racial equality, immigration, healthcare, the economy, voting rights, women's equality, and LGBTQ rights.

Gehring is the author of *The Francis Effect: A Radical Pope's Challenge to the American Catholic Church*.

### Congratulations, Confirmandi!



On Sunday afternoon November 7, 22 young parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation during a Mass at the cathedral in Hartford. Archbishop Leonard Blair, the Principal Celebrant, greeted the congregation, which included candidates from 7 different parishes, warmly: "Welcome to your beautiful Cathedral of Saint Joseph."

Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV, served as Principal Concelebrant. Father John and the pastors of the other six parishes also concelebrated the Mass. Michael Deveny was an altar server.

After the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the Laying on of Hands the candidates, accompanied by their sponsors, approached Archbishop Blair and Bishop Betancourt in separate lines for the Anointing with Chrism. Sealed now with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they can spread among men and women "the pleasing fragrance of Christ." May God bless them always. The newly confirmed are:

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alexis Catherine of Siena Borecki   | Ava Clare of Assisi Lam               |
| Ashley Faustina Kowalska Borecki    | Abigail Claudia Liscinsky             |
| Emily Rita of Cascia Buchino        | Aiden Michael the Archangel McKernan  |
| Molly Elizabeth Ciuci               | Franco Fazzio Milovanov               |
| Danielle Cecilia D'Avignon          | Ryan John Paul II Moran               |
| Dylan John Fedorchak                | Antonio Gabriel Salati                |
| Vincent John the Baptist Ferrucci   | Julian John the Evangelist Sevillano  |
| Christian Teresa of Avila Garcia    | Caden Catherine of Alexandria Simpson |
| Kaitlyn Catherine of Siena Goldberg | Lissette Dymphna Soto                 |
| Lillian Cecilia Greenwood           | Aliana Miriam Tepetl                  |
| Kaylee Sarah Hannon                 | Kiernan Peter Wilson                  |

*Note:* The article above is the corrected version of one that appeared in the December issue of *The Parish Press*. The editor apologizes for the error.

### Parish Policy for Daily Mass During Snowstorms

In the event of snow, Saint Raphael Parish follows the Milford Public School emergency closing policy. If schools in Milford are *closed* or *delayed* because of adverse weather conditions, we follow their lead. Our church sidewalks, driveways and parking lots are not usually accessible immediately after a storm, and the insurance carrier for the Archdiocese of Hartford urges us not to permit vehicular or pedestrian traffic if they have not been cleared. **Be aware, then, that daily Mass will not be celebrated if Milford public schools are closed or have a delayed opening.** We want all members of the parish family to be safe. Any Mass intentions will be rescheduled.

### Human Trafficking Myth vs Fact

*Our series continues.*

**Myth:** Human trafficking is the same thing as sex trafficking.

**Fact:** Sex trafficking is one form of human trafficking. Another is labor trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery in which both children and adults are compelled to perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion.

Do you suspect someone you know of being involved in or a victim of human trafficking? For more information or help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: **1-888-373-7888**

### Prayers for the New Year

*Come, Holy Spirit,  
Spirit of the Risen Christ,  
be with us today and always.  
Be our Light, our Guide,  
and our Comforter.  
Be our Strength, our Courage,  
and our Sanctifier.  
May this new year be a time  
of deep spiritual growth for us,  
A time of welcoming your graces  
and gifts,  
A time for forgiving freely  
and unconditionally,  
A time for growing in virtue  
and goodness.  
Come, Holy Spirit,  
Be with us today and always.*

*Remember us, O God;  
from age to age be our comforter.  
You have given us  
the wonder of time,  
blessings in days and nights,  
seasons and years.  
Bless your children  
at the turning of the year  
and fill the months ahead  
with the bright hope  
that is ours in the coming of Christ.  
You are our God, living and  
reigning, forever and ever. Amen.*



Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of our food pantry, a lifeline for so many, May God bless you for your kindness and compassion for those in need.



## Jesus Loves Me and Makes Me New December Celebrations of First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the fifteen young parishioners who met Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation in early December. "Let the children come to me," Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel (19:13-14). Through this beautiful Sacrament of Healing Jesus expresses his love for children just as he did for the children in "Judea across the Jordan" some two thousand years ago. "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Brooklyn DelMonte  
Brendan Glynn  
Carlos Hernandez  
Mason Jackson  
Amelia Jorge

Samuele Mannino  
Ava Maziarz  
Aubrey Mitchell  
Thaddeus Munk  
Everly Murphy

Matthew Pawlowski  
Braden Scepanski  
William Simpson  
Elina Soria  
Sophia Swan

### GIFT for January Child Lures and Teen Lures Prevention Program

The Archdiocese of Hartford requires that families with children and teens registered in our GIFT program (Grade 1 through Confirmation Program) participate in the Child Lures or Teen Lures Prevention programs, *even if they have attended in previous years*. Even one year can make a difference in level of understanding.

Child Lures is designed for children through grade 6. Teen Lures is designed for preteens/teens grade 7 or older. Due to the nature of the content, all programs - for both children and teens - require the participation of an adult (parent/guardian).

#### In-Person Sessions in Parish Center Classrooms

**Friday, January 21**  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, January 23**  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 26**  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

These age-appropriate programs introduce personal safety to children and teens and empower them to detect, avoid, and report inappropriate behaviors and unsafe situations. The 2022 in-person dates for the Child Lures and Teen Lures programs are posted at left. We will be meeting in Parish Center classrooms.

All adults will receive a parent guide to help with continued reinforcement at home of these important personal safety tips. If you have questions, please contact Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net).

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January *For True Human Fraternity*

*We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.*



### GIFT Sacramental Program Schedule Confirmation *Living the Moral Life*

Sunday, January 9  
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 11  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

#### *The Nicene Creed*

Sunday, February 6  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

*or*  
Tuesday, February 8  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Required for Candidates

#### First Communion *Learning Session #1*

Saturday, February 5  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
(Evening make-up will be  
scheduled if necessary.)  
Required for 1st Communion  
children with parent/guardian.

Parish Center Classroom

### It's On for Saturday, February 5! Don't Miss the Return of Winter Family Fun Night

Yes, it's *WFFN*, a lively, upside-down kind of fun fest as the ages 4 to 10 crowd picks up the tab for the evening (a free will offering, if possible), and adults can come at no cost. Stop by the Parish Center (Saint Ann Campus) any time between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. and get in on the action. Our fabulous presenters - the Teens for Service group - have some terrific activities planned.

- Get Crafty!** Winter Crafts, Coloring and Puzzles
- Game On!** Family Board Games and Bingo
- Dance Night!** Rocky Railway VBS Camp Music
- Snowman Stories!** (*The Biggest Snowman Ever* by Steven Kroll and Yossi Lapid's *Snowman Paul at the Winter Olympics*)
- Go for a Strike!** Indoor Bowling **and** (a crowd favorite) **Snack to Go!**



Interested? Please contact Maria (as above) to reserve your family's spot. And please cast your vote for the activities your children like best. That helps us plan for the appropriate room layouts.

In a change from previous years, we will gratefully accept free will offerings for this fun-filled evening. All proceeds will benefit a charity selected by our parish teens. We hope to see you there!

## Holy Day, American Saints, A Souper Bowl, Prayers for the New Year

Welcome to 2022. The year begins with a Holy Day as we honor Mary, the Mother of God. Meet two American saints the Church commemorates during the first week of this new year.



As the NFL gears up for the big game at SoFi Stadium in February, T4S is working on its own game plan for this month's Souper Bowl of Caring. Check inside and see how you can help.

If we have learned anything during this prolonged siege of Covid it is our continuing need to reach out to God in prayer. Look within for two prayers we might offer "at the turning of the year."

May this new year be bright with hope and rich with blessings for all our readers.

### ***The Parish Press***

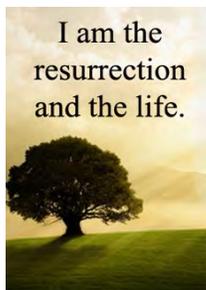
A Publication of Saint Raphael Parish  
Milford, Connecticut  
Editor: Ann K. Eden  
Production Staff: Lou Eden, Nancy Vai  
Printing: Graphic Image, Milford, CT

**SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH**  
Saint Ann Church Saint Gabriel Church  
501 Naugatuck Ave.  
Milford, CT 06460-5048

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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MILFORD, CT  
PERMIT NO. 362

*May the God of love and peace  
be with you throughout the new year.*

### **In Memoriam**



I am the  
resurrection  
and the life.

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Patricia Bowers	Jon Giancola
Francine Dussault	Charles Kranyak
Gayle Wosleger	Barbara Lynch
Daniel Sears	Connie Dumont
Ellen Foley	Anita SantaLucia
Philip Salito	Albert DeLorenzo
Elda Wierzbicki	Valerie Seager
Lucille DeMarco	Memoli

May God's radiant light be with them in everlasting life.

### **Bereavement Support Meeting January 9**



The parish Bereavement Support group meets on the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. Through this very special ministry we offer comfort to those who mourn, helping them on the difficult journey from grief to healing.

If you are grieving the loss of someone you love we hope you can be with us. Gathered with others who have known the pain of loss, ease your burden, if only for an hour. Please call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you would like additional information.

### **February Parish Press Information Due January 12**

Send any news, photos, comments, notes or suggestions for February to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) by Wednesday, January 12 or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!

### **We Welcome With Love . . .**

. . . the newest members of our parish family

Anthony Eric Angotto  
Josephine Rose Berry  
Zack Robert Berry  
Jack Richard Buskey  
Camille Pinsince  
Oliver Pinsince



who were baptized on November 21 at Saint Ann Church. May God bless you, little ones, and may your lives be filled with grace and wonder.

### **First Saturday Fatima Rosary January 8, 11:00 a.m.**

Because of the January 1 holy day, we will pray this month's First Saturday Rosary on January 8, the second Saturday of the month. Please join us at Saint Ann Church as we invoke the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima and pray for peace in our troubled world.

*By Thy pure and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, obtain for me the conversion of Russia, Spain, Portugal, Europe and the whole world. (One of the seven prayers taught to the three children of Fatima)*

**Pray the Rosary Every Tuesday at Noon  
In the Saint Ann Children's Chapel**  
Enter by the side door near the chapel.



**Saint Raphael Parish Website**  
[www.saintraphaelmilford.org](http://www.saintraphaelmilford.org)